

other great Americans turn down the responsibility of public office because of the demands of our current campaign finance system.

After remarrying and leaving the Senate, citizen Maurine Neuberger went back to the classroom. She taught at Boston University and Radcliffe College. Then she became an opponent of the Vietnam War and supported Robert Kennedy in his 1968 presidential race.

Eventually, she moved back home to Portland, Oregon, but stayed active in public affairs, serving on presidential commissions for Presidents Johnson and Carter. Friends say she remained interested in politics and lived an active life up until 2 months before her death at age 93. Senator RON WYDEN said he talked to former Senator Neuberger after he had cross-examined tobacco executives with tough questions before a congressional panel, and she told him, "Stay after them."

Maureen became well known in Portland circles, not just for her political acumen and her bridge-playing, but as an avid gardener. In fact, she became so well known for her green thumb that a rose was named after her, a miniature rose called the "Maureen Neuberger." The American Rose Society describes it as "red, a reliable bloomer."

The seeds that this reliable bloomer planted in Congress have taken many forms in the 34 years since she served here, in stronger civil rights laws, protections for consumers, and honest recognition about the dangers of smoking. I am honored to share a family connection to this remarkable woman and public servant, and I applaud the spirit that she brought to this Congress and to her life.

DECREASING OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, before 1995, the United States banned the export of oil produced on Alaska's North Slope, feeling we should supply our own national needs first. In 1995, Congress, with the full support of the current administration, voted to change the law and allow companies to export North Slope oil. At the time, I believed that lifting the ban was a bad mistake, that it would raise gasoline prices on the West Coast, and I said so on this floor. Now, with regular gasoline costing over \$2 per gallon in some places on the West Coast, I have unfortunately been proven correct.

Refineries on the West Coast depend on North Slope oil for much of their production. A single company, British Petroleum, controls an overwhelming

share of the oil. In a recent complaint, the Federal Trade Commission alleges that British Petroleum manipulates oil prices on the West Coast by exporting to Asia at lower prices than it could get for the same product from West Coast refineries.

When the ban on North Slope oil exports was lifted, Americans were told that the action would benefit the oil industry and the American consumer. However, they did not say how it might help the American consumer. North Slope oil exports has only benefited one company, British Petroleum, and have contributed to the tremendous fuel price increases experienced by West Coast consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 4017, which would reinstate the ban on North Slope oil exports. I believe we should not export any oil when the U.S. must import oil for our own Nation's use. I hope that those of my colleagues who are interested in lowering fuel prices, ending discriminatory pricing, and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil will join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING SENATOR MAURINE NEUBERGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to follow the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and to precede the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) in honoring former Senator Maureen Neuberger, an accomplished Oregonian and a true trail blazer.

Senator Neuberger made her mark nationally when her husband, Dick Neuberger, died and she beat five opponents to fill the vacant Senate seat. However, she was already familiar to Oregonians as a State legislator, party organizer, and as a teacher.

Senator Neuberger was a trail blazer because she was not only the third woman elected to the other body, but also because she championed many of the same issues which continue to bedevil us today, like education and health care reform. She sponsored one of the first bills to mandate health warning labels on cigarettes, a measure which is commonplace today. Senator Neuberger is an inspiration to women, to Oregonians, and to all Americans.

On a more personal note, Senator Neuberger came to a function in support of me early during my campaign, and I was deeply honored that she was there. Quite frankly, I was a little bit mystified because she has such a large presence in the State, and I was such a dark horse candidate. It was just a sign of her genuine interest in public affairs in Oregon that she came that day to that event, and she came with her

great friend, Bud Forrester, also a gentleman who had been very active in our community for many, many decades.

She and Mr. Forrester passed away on the same day very recently; and in passing away, these two great public servants on the same day, they are, in essence, an Oregon version of the Jefferson and Adams story where two great Americans died on the same day, the 4th of July, over 150 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Neuberger will be greatly, greatly missed by me, by Oregonians, and by all Americans; but her devotion to civil service and her strength and determination will be remembered in Oregon and around the country for years to come.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, in the 5 years I have served in the House of Representatives and thinking back on all of the public meetings I have held, I can think of few that are as poignant as the one I held yesterday concerning the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Years ago I witnessed firsthand the mental and physical damage caused by domestic violence and sexual assault. As a patient advocate and rape counselor, I was on the front lines in emergency rooms when victims were brought into the hospitals for treatment. Unfortunately, though, for many, domestic violence was a dirty little secret with which they lived. Fear of their abusers, fear for their children and families, a lack of self-esteem, as well as fear that no one in authority could offer guaranteed safety and security, kept them from speaking out.

In 1994, Congress addressed this problem head on through the creation of the Violence Against Women Act known by the acronym VAWA. This landmark legislation was the first time the specific needs of victims of violence were directly addressed by the Federal Government. Yesterday, I brought together advocates, law enforcement officials, and those who work with victims' services, to discuss the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. In addition, I asked New York State Senator Vincent Leibell, Putnam County District Attorney Kevin Wright, and Westchester County Deputy District Attorney MaryEllen Martirano to join us so the group could benefit from the exchange of ideas from their experiences as well. Also the mayor of Mount Kisco, New York, Pat Riley, was with us, so we had all levels of government.

The fight against domestic violence cannot be won alone. It is only through